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Unusual Foods of the Lesser Spear-Nosed Bat, *Phyllostomus discolor*

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Phyllostomus discolor is a phyllostomid bat with a wide distribution, occurring from southeastern Mexico to southwestern Brazil. This species rests in several types of roosts, such as hollow trees and tree holes, caves, culverts, and buildings (Eisenberg, 1989; Nowak, 1991). The diet of *P. discolor* appears very diverse. Although considered by some authors to be primarily frugivorous (Gardner, 1977), *P. discolor* feeds also on pollen, nectar, and insects (Gardner, 1977; Nowak, 1991). Fleming et al. (1972) analyzed the food of *P. discolor* in Costa Rica and Panama and found 99% insects and only 1% fruit. On the other hand, Heithaus et al. (1975) reported that pollen predominated in the stomach contents of lesser spear-nosed bats in Costa Rica; in addition to pollen, those authors also found insects, but no seeds. *Phyllostomus discolor* is an important flower visitor, pollinating several species of plants (Sazima and Sazima, 1977; Dobat and Peikert-Holle, 1985). In contrast to the other reports, Willig (1983) suggests that *P. discolor* is omnivorous, and in captivity, *P. discolor* eats meat (McNab, 1969), although it does not display the predatory behavior that is typically observed in the larger *P. hastatus* (Eisenberg, 1989).

In the following note, we present data on items of food found under a roost of the lesser spear-nosed bat and collected in March 1994, in the urban area of Crato (07° 13' S, 39° 24' W), State of Ceará, northeastern Brazil. The remains were found on the floor of a church tower (Catedral da Sé), in which a colony of *P. discolor* roosted. We identified seeds of *Cecropia sp.* (Cecropiaceae), wing fragments of hydrophilid beetles, and the leg of a frog (*Leptodactylus ocellatus*: Leptdactylidae) among the remains discarded under the roost.

Phyllostomus discolor is known to feed on many plant species (Dobat and Peikert-Holle, 1985; Gardner, 1977). However, we are unaware of previous references to the use of *Cecropia* infructescences as a food item by *P. discolor*. *Cecropia* infructescences are also eaten by the larger *P. hastatus* (Gardner, 1977).

Leptodactylus ocellatus is a large frog (120 to 140 mm in body length) with terrestrial habits (Cei, 1980), and its predation by the lesser spear-nosed bat suggests that this bat is able to recognize and capture live prey on the ground and carry it to the roost. According to Duellman and Trueb (1986), predation on anuran amphibians is known from only two bat genera: the Old World Megaderma (probably only *M. lyra*---Nowak, 1991) and the New World species *Trachops cirrhosus*, a phyllostomid that is smaller than *P. discolor* (Ryan et al., 1982; Tuttle and Ryan, 1981; Tuttle et al., 1982). Nevertheless, *Chrotopterus auritus*, another New World bat, also feeds on frogs (Sazima, 1978). Our report, however, is the first record of predation on amphibians by *P. discolor*, and we suspect that *P. hastatus* also include frogs in its diet, since it is known to feed on small vertebrates, such as lizards, birds, mice, and other bats (Gardner, 1977).

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